

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT (P3S2003263US)

Amendments to the Specification

On page 1, please replace the heading "TECHNICAL FIELD" with the following amended heading:

~~TECHNICAL~~ FIELD OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, please replace the heading "BACKGROUND ART" with the following amended heading:

~~BACKGROUND ART~~ OF THE INVENTION

On page 3, please replace the heading "DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION" with the following amended heading:

~~DISCLOSURE~~ SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 4, please replace the heading "BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION" with the following amended heading:

~~BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION~~ DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please replace paragraph starting from the bottom of page 9 to page 10, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

--As shown in Fig. 5A, immersion in the strong acid solution in the pre-grinding washing process S14 deforms the glass. The composition of a layer (surface layer) 27 near the surface of the deformed glass plate 21a 24 differs from the composition of an inner portion 26 of the glass plate 21a